

WHERE I'M FROM

I am from the big white house
Between the mountain and the river
Timber and stone cut and sawn by Granddaddy's hands
Stringing beans and cellar full of mason jars

I am from the row of modern houses
on a city subdivision street
Post war developments and the
Gravitational pull of good paying jobs

I am from long Friday night car rides
Fried chicken and dumplings waiting
Summer and Christmas vacations
Brown bags of chocolate drops and peppermint

I am from mountaintop burying
River baptisms and lining out Amazing Grace
And contemporary stained glass windows
Silver bowls of water and hymn books

I am from white gloves and dresses
Bus rides for downtown shopping
And pop and pickled bologna on Poppy's store porch
Oil soaked dirt and the mouth of the holler

Where are you from? I'm from Louisville
but my family is from eastern Kentucky
Past Lexington driving toward home
My heart starts filling up.

Jody Curry, Crestwood, Oldham County

WHERE I'M FROM

I am from tinker toys
from boomerangs
and pogo sticks
I am from Pinky Lee and Jackie Gleason
oh, how sweet it is
I am from cigarettes and whiskey
(bourbon, please, in a highball glass)
I am from silver julep cups
from thoroughbred horses
and people who follow your bloodlines
I am from dogwoods and redbuds
from sternwheelers on the river
from girdles and garters
(but not to speak of personal things)
I am from neatly folded napkins and
paper ones to save,
proper shoes, cufflinks, and collar stays
I am from country club cotillion
from swim meets
from bridge clubs
I am from Ringo and Bo Diddley
from French onion dip on potato chips
from fried chicken
and a maid named Georgia
with soft hands and a catching laugh
who said she'd met Jesus
(and I believed her)
I am from kindnesses and hostesses
from dinner at six
and service to people in need
I am from getting away with sneaking out
from fireflies and turtles and frogs
I am from backyard graveyards
from neighborhood faces
which still recognize mine
and stories repeated two thousand times.
That's where I'm from.

Elizabeth Landrum, Crestwood, Oldham County